

MS. MADSON: Hi. My name is Diana Madson. I'm the Executive Director of the Mountain Pact. I'm reading this statement on behalf of many who could not join us today due to a conflict with the annual Colorado Municipal League meeting. Specifically I read this statement on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Telluride, the Mayor and Council of the City of Aspen, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Ophir, and Council Member Dean Berky [phonetic] of Durango. They write: Our Colorado outdoor recreation-based economies are dependent on the mountains and rivers that bring people to our region. Yet each year, the threats of climate change grow more and more severe. Increased temperatures, decreased snow pack, and the growing risk of wildfire in our State are all symptoms of rising global temperatures. Our communities need time and resources to develop and implement climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Greenhouse gas emissions from coal are a primary driver of climate change. And the [indiscernible] on public lands does not take this into account. Meanwhile, because mountain regions are so susceptible to warming temperatures and other impacts caused by climate change, our communities are on the frontlines and often responsible for responding to these environmental consequences on the local level. Not only are the livelihoods and safety of our community members jeopardized, but we are also asked to bear the financial burden of climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. In the fact of climate change, it's time to modernize the Federal Coal Program to accurately account for its cost to communities, taxpayers, and the environment, while supporting a transition to a more sustainable and resilient economy for coal communities. With new revenues from increased royalty rates, the Federal government, State, and communities can invest in climate preparedness practices. Furthermore, revenues could help ease the immediate effects of the decline in coal production, the loss of jobs, and [indiscernible] the transition to a more diverse economy. Now, is the time to reform the outdated Federal program -- account for coal contribution to climate change and ensure that American taxpayers receive their fair share of coal royalties. We commend the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management for laughing the PEIS. And we urge you to, one, update the royalty rate for fossil fuel extraction on public land to ensure that American taxpayers

receive their fair share and invest a portion of new renewable into local climate resilience projects. And two, help diversify roll over economies and create new jobs through investments and technology infrastructure in the outdoor recreation economy. Thank you.